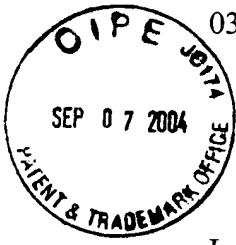


JRW



03560.003349

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KAZUO OHYAMA) : Examiner: L. Evanisko
Appln. No.: 10/658,659) : Group Art Unit: 2854
Filed: September 10, 2003) :
For: RECORDING APPARATUS) : September 7, 2004
) : (Tuesday After Federal Holiday)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated August 5, 2004.

A careful review of the specification reveals that the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143,
Applicant provisionally elects Species VII, represented by Fig. 10. It is respectfully
submitted that Claims 1-8 and 13-16 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed
to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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